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Archives de biologie, Tome VII, Fascicule III, 1887.—La race humaine de Neanderthal ou de Canstadt en Belgique.—[Sub-title:] *Recherches ethnographiques sur des ossements humains, découverts dans des dépôts quaternaires d'une grotte à Spy et détermination de leur âge géologique, par Julien Fraipont, professeur de paléontologie animale à l' Université de Liège, et Max Lohest, ingénieur honoraire des mines, assistant de géologie à l' Université de Liège.*

This article, the result of an elaborate study of the human remains discovered in June, 1886, at a grotto in the commune of Spy, province of Namur, Belgium, occupies 170 octavo pages and is illustrated with 21 figures and 4 large folding plates. The grotto of Spy is no new discovery ; its interior was explored some years ago ; but it was reserved for Messrs. Lohest and De Puydt to excavate the terrace in front of the grotto and there to find bones of the quaternary man of Europe, associated with the remains of the *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, *Elephas primigenius*, *Ursus spelæus*, *Hyæna spelæa*, and other contemporary animals now extinct. The human remains consist of parts of two human skeletons, including the skulls. The skeletons are distinguished from each other throughout the essay as No. 1 and No. 2. We regret that we cannot furnish our readers with some of the interesting details of the authors' studies. We have space only for some of their more important conclusions.

"The skull of Spy [No. 1] fills a veritable hiatus which existed until now between the Neanderthal skull and the other remains attributed to this race." (p. 699.)

"The skull of Spy No. 2 also fills a real lacuna. It is understood that anthropologists have refused to consider as belonging to the same race skulls whose foreheads present curves as different from one another as those of Canstadt and the Neanderthal. The skulls of Eguisheim and La Denise present an intermediate type of frontal, but that of Spy No. 2 renders this gradation still more insensible between a forehead relatively projecting and one very much depressed. For this double reason the skulls of Spy are precious." (p. 700.)

"The distance which separates the man of Spy from the modern anthropoid is incontestably enormous ; it is little less between the man of Spy and the Dryopithecus. But allow us to state that the ethnic type of the man of the Lower Quaternary, in order to

attain our present types, if he is the progenitor of these, has traversed a long road." (p. 755.)

"In laying stress on the data acquired to-day, it is allowable to believe that we can follow the ancestral series of man and the anthropoids still further perhaps into the Eocene and even beyond." (p. 755.)

W. M.

Revue d'anthropologie, March 15, 1888.—Le tibia dans la race de Néanderthal. Étude comparative de l'incurvation de la tête du tibia dans ses rapports avec la station verticale chez l'homme et les anthropoïdes, par Julien Fraipont, professeur à l'Université de Liège.

In this paper we have the results of a further comparative study of the skeletons of Spy, by one of the authors of the article referred to in the notice immediately preceding. He develops an interesting and comparatively new field of investigation, which, we join with him in hoping, may be pursued further by students who have access to large collections of skeletons.

It has been found that the head of the tibia is not set upon the shaft alike in all men, nor alike in man and the anthropoids. The most important element in this difference is demonstrated by finding the axis of the head of the tibia—a line vertical to its superior articular surface—and the axis of the shaft or body of the bone, and then determining the angle formed at their point of intersection. He gives definite rules for finding these axes, which we will not now quote. This angle is held to have a definite relation to the capacity of the individual for assuming the erect or "military" position, and, as might be supposed, is greater in the anthropoid than in man. But the author finds that among the men examined the angle is greatest in a tibia of Spy and that it gradually decreases in that of the Neolithic man and the Gallo-Roman, until in the tibia of the modern European (Liégeois) the two axes nearly coincide. Illustrations representing six tibiæ of different races with their axial lines show at a glance the results of Prof. Fraipont's studies.

W. M.